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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of collaboratively identifying, prioritizing, and resolving issues affecting a series administered by an originating entity, the series comprising a plurality of similar complex systems, the method being implemented over a computer network in communication with a first, second, and third computer device, the first computer device being adapted to be used by a customer in possession of a system in the series, the second computer device being adapted to be used by the originating entity, and the third computer device being adapted to be used by a committee comprised of a customer representative and an originating entity representative, the method comprising:

receiving at least one of an issue and a comment corresponding to the issue over the computer network, from at least one of a first computer device adapted to be used by a the customer in possession of a system in the series and a second computer device adapted to be used by the originating entity,[:]

posting at least one of the issue and the comment on a discussion-capable electronic media configured to have a plurality of issues and a plurality of comments posted thereon and accessible to the first, the second, and a third computer device over the computer network, the electronic media being configured to have a plurality of issues and a plurality of comments posted thereon, the third computer device being adapted to be used by a committee comprised of a customer representative and an originating entity representative;

allowing the committee, via the third computer device, access to the electronic media such that the committee is capable of separating for the committee to separate the posted plurality of issues into rejected issues and action issues, at least partially based on the posted plurality of comments, the committee thereafter prioritizing and to prioritize the action issues;

allowing the committee, via the third computer device, to assign each action issue to have a resolution investigation conducted thereon to at least one of the customer and the originating entity and to send a set of resolution directions for conducting the resolution investigation for

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each assigned action issue over the computer network to at least one of the customer via the first computer device and the originating entity via second computer device; receiving a resolution proposal, resulting from the corresponding resolution investigation, for each action issue over the computer network, from the at least one of the customer and the originating entity assigned the respective action issue and such that the resolution proposals are accessible by the committee via the third computer device, for the committee to evaluate the resolution proposals; and allowing the committee, via the third computer device, to direct the implementation of the resolution proposal for each evaluated action issue over the computer network, whereby the committee then directs and to then direct closure of the action issue upon completion of the implementation of the resolution proposal.

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2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising storing the rejected issues for at least one of further monitoring and future reference.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein allowing the committee to send a set of resolution directions further comprises allowing the committee to send a set of resolution directions comprising at least one of an assignment of the action issue to at least one of the customer and the originating entity, a suggested cost of the implementation of the resolution proposal, and a criteria for designating the action issue as being resolved.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the originating entity comprises an aircraft manufacturer of a series of aircraft and receiving an issue further comprises receiving a non-safety issue.

5. (Currently Amended) A system for collaboratively identifying, prioritizing, and resolving issues affecting a series administered by an originating entity, the series comprising a plurality of similar complex systems, the system being implemented over a computer network and comprising:

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a first computer device adapted to be used by a customer and configured to be in communication with a computer network;

a second computer device adapted to be used by the originating entity and configured to be in communication with the computer network;

a third computer device adapted to be used by a committee comprised of a customer representative and an originating entity representative, the third computer device being configured to be in communication with the computer network; and

a fourth computer device configured to be in communication with the first, second, and third computer devices over the computer network, the fourth computer device comprising:

a first processing portion configured to receive at least one of an issue and a comment corresponding to the issue from at least one of the first computer device and the second computer device over the computer network;

a second processing portion responsive to the first processing portion and configured to post at least one of the issue and the comment on a discussion-capable electronic media accessible to the first, second, and third computer devices over the computer network, the electronic media being configured to have a plurality of issues and a plurality of comments posted thereon;

a third processing portion configured to allow the committee, via the third computer device, access to the electronic media such that the committee is capable of separating for the committee to separate the posted plurality of issues into rejected issues and action issues, at least partially based on the posted plurality of comments, the committee thereafter prioritizing and to prioritize the action issues;

a fourth processing portion configured to allow the committee, via the third computer device, to assign each action issue to have a resolution investigation conducted thereon to at least one of the customer and the originating entity and to send a set of resolution directions for conducting

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the resolution investigation for each assigned action issue over the computer network to at least one of the customer via the first computer device and the originating entity via the second computer device;
a fifth processing portion configured to receive a resolution proposal, resulting from the corresponding resolution investigation, for each action issue over the computer network, from the at least one of the customer and the originating entity assigned the respective action issue and such that the resolution proposals are accessible by the committee via the third computer device, for the committee to evaluate the resolution proposals;
and
a sixth processing portion configured to allow committee, via the third computer device, to direct the implementation of the resolution proposal for each evaluated action issue over the computer network, whereby the committee then directs and to then direct closure of the action issue upon completion of the implementation of the resolution proposal.

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6. (Original) A system according to Claim 5 wherein the third processing portion is further configured to store the rejected issues for at least one of further monitoring and future reference.
 7. (Original) A system according to Claim 5 wherein the set of resolution directions further comprises at least one of an assignment of the action issue to at least one of the customer and the originating entity, a suggested cost of the implementation of the resolution proposal, and a criteria for designating the action issue as being resolved.
 8. (Original) A system according to Claim 5 wherein the issues further comprise non-safety issues.
 9. (Original) A system according to Claim 5 wherein the originating entity comprises a manufacturer of the series.

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10. (Original) A system according to Claim 9 wherein the originating entity comprises an aircraft manufacturer of a series of aircraft.

11. (New) A method of collaboratively identifying, prioritizing, and resolving issues affecting a series administered by an originating entity, the series comprising a plurality of similar complex systems, the method being implemented over a computer network in communication with a first, second, and third computer device, the first computer device being adapted to be used by a customer in possession of a system in the series, the second computer device being adapted to be used by the originating entity, and the third computer device being adapted to be used by a committee comprised of a customer representative and an originating entity representative, the method comprising:

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receiving at least one of an issue and a comment corresponding to the issue over the computer network, from at least one of the customer and the originating entity via the respective computer device, on a discussion-capable electronic media configured to have a plurality of issues and a plurality of comments posted thereon and accessible to the first, the second, and the third computer devices over the computer network;

separating, by the committee, the posted issues into rejected issues and action issues at least partially based on the posted comments;

prioritizing, by the committee, the action issues;

assigning, by the committee, each action issue to an assignee, the assignee comprising at least one of the customer and the originating entity, the assignee for the respective action issue thereby being responsible for developing a resolution proposal for resolving that action issue;

sending, by the committee via the third computer device, each action issue with an associated set of resolution directions over the computer network to the assignee of the respective action issue via the respective computer device, the set of

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resolution directions including at least one issue-closure criteria to be met by the resolution proposal for the respective action issue;
receiving, by the committee, a resolution proposal for each action issue over the computer network from the respective assignee;
evaluating, by the committee, the resolution proposal for the respective action issue with respect to the issue-closure criteria;
directing, by the committee, implementation by at least one of the customer and the originating entity of the resolution proposal meeting the associated issue-closure criteria for each action issue; and
closing, by the committee, each action issue upon completion of implementation of the associated resolution proposal.

12. (New) A method according to Claim 11 further comprising storing the rejected issues for at least one of further monitoring and future reference.

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13. (New) A method according to Claim 11 wherein assigning each action issue to an assignee further comprises assigning each action issue to an assignee according to the priority determined by the committee.

14. (New) A method according to Claim 11 wherein sending each action issue with an associated set of resolution directions further comprises sending each action issue with an associated set of resolution directions including at least one of an implementation cost and an implementation deadline to be met by the resolution proposal for the respective action issue.

15. (New) A method according to Claim 11 wherein the originating entity comprises an aircraft manufacturer of a series of aircraft and receiving an issue further comprises receiving a non-safety issue.

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16. (New) A method according to Claim 11 further comprising requesting, by the committee, approval of the at least one issue-closure criteria associated with each action issue, from at least the customer, prior to assigning the action issue to the assignee.

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17. (New) A method according to Claim 11 further comprising obtaining, by the committee, a commitment from at least the customer to implement a resolution proposal to the respective action issue meeting the at least one issue-closure criteria, prior to assigning the action issue to the assignee.